

Application Number: 09/679,127

Docket: 2000-073

Reel 1/126
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29. (New) The block copolymer of claim 28, wherein the A block is a polymeric block of monomer selected from the group consisting of methyl methacrylate and N,N-dimethylacrylamide.

REMARKS

Claims 20-29 have been added to provide the Examiner with a set of claims that claim the invention with varying scope and that are patentably distinct over the art of record.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the new claims and consider them.

No new subject matter has been added. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the specification as originally filed. Support for claims 20 and 25 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 23, line 21 - page 25, line 5. Support for claims 21-24 and 26-28 can be found in the specification at, for example, page 32, Table 1. Additional support for claims 22, 24, 27 and 29 can be found at, for example, page 13, line 25, and page 25, line 3.

In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 20-29.

New Claims 20, 23, 25 and 28 Are Allowable Over The Art Relied Upon In The Previous Office Action

New independent claims 20, 23, 25 and 28 are allowable and distinguish over Matyjaszewski and the rest of the art of record. Example 33 in Matyjaszewski discloses two ABA copolymers. The first is a methyl methacrylate -b- 2-hexyl ethyl acrylate -b- methyl methacrylate copolymer ("Mat. 1"), and the second is an acrylonitrile -b- 2-hexyl ethyl acrylate -b- acrylonitrile copolymer ("Mat. 2"). Neither of these polymers meets all of the requirements of any one of the claims.

Regarding Mat. 1, the log p value of methyl methacrylate is 1.38 and the log p value of 2-hexyl ethyl acrylate is 4.09. This polymer fails meet at least the log p requirements of claims 20

and 25. This polymer also fails to meet at least the requirement of claims 23 and 28 of the B block being a polymeric block of (2-methoxyethyl)acrylate.

Regarding Mat. 2, it is well known to those of ordinary skill in the art that water and alcohol are non-solvents for polyacrylonitrile. See Brandrup, J. (editor), Polymer Handbook, (3rd edition 1989) p.VII-380 (which states that water is generally a non-solvent for polymers and is only listed with a polymer if it is a solvent), and p. VII-385 (which lists alcohols as a non-solvent for polyacrylonitrile and does not list water as a solvent.). Mat. 2 fails to meet at least the solubility requirements of claims 20, 23, 25 and 28.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of these claims.

The Claims That Depend on Claims 20, 23, 25 and 28 Are Allowable

Because claims 21 and 22 are dependent on and incorporate all of the limitations of independent claim 20, as well as recite further limitations, claims 21 and 22 are also patentable over the art of record. Because claim 24 is dependent on and incorporates all of the limitations of independent claim 23, as well as recites further limitations, claim 24 is also patentable over the art of record. Because claims 26 and 27 are dependent on and incorporate all of the limitations of independent claim 25, as well as recite further limitations, claims 26 and 27 are also patentable over the art of record. Because claim 29 is dependent on and incorporates all of the limitations of independent claim 28, as well as recites further limitations, claim 28 is also patentable over the art of record. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of these claims.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of all of the art of record, including the art cited in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement enclosed herewith.

This application stands in allowable form and allowance is respectfully requested.

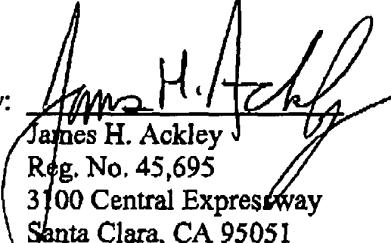
Respectfully submitted,

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